BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR.....1965

BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman:-..... Councillor G.O. Fry.

Vice-Chairman:-.....Councillor D.J. Fiander.

His Worship the Mayor..... Councillor W.L.Penny (ex-officio)

Councillor A.W.G. Adams.

Councillor Major A.N. Lane.

Councillor A. Powis.

Councillor Lt. Col. P.E. Salkeld.

Councillor Miss A.A. Williams J.P

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.

holding appointments of:-

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer. -)
School Medical Officer.) 5/11th of time.

Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum.

Medical Officer of Health - Blandford Rural District.

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne Minster Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.

Contributing roughly:-

Borough of Blandford Forum..... $\frac{1}{4}$ day per week.

Blandford Rural District..... $\frac{1}{2}$ day per week.

Wimborne Minster Urban District..... $\frac{1}{3}$ day per week.

Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.....$1\frac{1}{2}$ days per week.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:-

H.L. Birkett, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

Dr. Noel Pearson of the North Dorset area very kindly acts as my deputy in an honorary capacity during my holidays.

Area Office,
Civic Centre,
Wimborne.
Dorset.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for 1965.

The list of notifiable diseases is a very modest one but notifiable diseases are no longer an effective indicator of the prevalence of infection, the agents of which are legion, though mostly mild in comparison with former common horrors such as diphtheria and typhoid. At least ninety viruses are known which cause the common cold and this "homely" pest still leads to complications such as bronchitis, broncho-pneumonia and middle ear disease. Gastro-enteritis is another very common condition and many outbreaks are due to viruses which have yet to be identified. The crumbling edifice of disease crumbled still further during the year when a practicable vaccine was produced against measles, but it will be a very long time before the edifice is completely demolished.

There was a small reduction in the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis from 18 to 15. There were four non-pulmonary cases. Bovine tuberculosis used to be responsible for most non-pulmonary tuberculosis and relatively few years ago there were 20,000 deaths annually from this cause. The almost complete elimination of this disease in its bovine form is due to the success in the elimination of tuberculosis from our cattle and the veterinary profession is to be congratulated on its painstaking efforts in this direction over many years.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the lung cancer death rate for 1965 remains below the national average of 0.5 per thousand but is nevertheless a tragedy. Despite the lip service paid to the old adage "prevention is better than cure", it must be admitted that prevention often depends upon prolonged personal effort and most of us prefer cure, implying, one hopes, temporary effort from someone else. Cure is rarely a possibility in lung cancer whereas prevention is theoretically simple and largely attainable, and for this reason the annual effort to interest the schoolchildren in prolonging their lives by not smoking was maintained. The ten to eleven year age group was chosen, and it is surprising how many boys of this age have already smoked ten or more cigarettes. There is a real risk that such children will eventually die of lung cancer or from a condition caused, or aggravated, by smoking. It is a poisonous habit.

42 primary vaccinations against smallpox were performed in 1965, and seven revaccinations. It is arguable if a preventive measure on this scale is justified now that it is proved so firmly that outbreaks can be controlled by vaccination of contacts when the emergency arises. The level of immunity in this country remains too low to offer any significant hope of restricting the spread of smallpox on the occasion when it is introduced from abroad, and there is a case for abandoning dabbling with vaccination unless an outbreak does arise. In 1965 there were four deaths attributable to vaccination, three of them in the 0 to 5 age group, but there were no deaths from smallpox. The World Health Organisation is embarking upon a campaign for the global

eradication of smallpox, this would be a magnificent achievement and deserves financial encouragement from all developed countries. It is an attainable object and though its realisation would take many years, substantial benefits would flow from its application even before the final goal was realised.

During the year the use of the old mortuary ceased and the new one in the cemetery chapel was completed. This is a dignified structure in an apt surrounding and is a vast improvement upon the old one. It is situated in the Rural District and the Rural District Council contributed to the expenses involved.

There follow the customary details under Sections A - C and the Public Health Inspector's Report for the year.

F. B. Hopkins.

OCTOBER, 1966 MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough.....253 acres

Population as estimated by Registrar General (mid-year). 3,630

Rateable value at 1st April, 1965.....£151,990

Estimated product of 1d rate on 1st April, 1965..... £ 582

Estimated number of inhabited houses at 31st December, 1965.... 1,223

AS SUPPLIED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

LIVE BIRTHS	Total	Male	Female	Blandford Borough	England & Wales	Administrative County
Total number registered	76	45	31			
Legitimate.....	70	40	30			
Illegitimate.....	6	5	1			
Standardised rate.....				24·7	18	18
DEATHS						
Total number registered	52	27	25			
Standardised rate.....				11·3	11·5	10·2

Comparability Factors

Births.....1·18
Deaths.....0·79

SECTION A

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Whooping Cough.....4
Measles.....26
Scarlatina..... 5
Tuberculosis..... 1

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year the number of cases on the tuberculosis register was as follows:-

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Males.....	10	Males.....	2
Females.....	5	Females.....	2

VACINNATION AND IMMUNISATION STATISTICS

Poliomyelitis				Diph-theria		Tetanus		Whooping Cough		Smallpox	
Oral		Salk									
3 doses.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.
62	75	20	5	86	77	95	87	83	36	42	7

P - Primary R - Re-inforcing dose

SECTION B

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is provided by the Dorset County Council. Control is centralised in Dorchester and the service operates from Castleman House.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

This is situated at Dorchester and provides an excellent free service for the bacteriological examination of human specimens, food, milk and water.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The County Council provided an Infant Welfare Clinic in Blandford once a fortnight. The Clinic accommodates this together with the School Dental Service, Speech Therapy, Audiometry, Family Planning Association, Registrar of Births and Deaths, Cervical Cytology Clinic, Home Help Organiser and other facilities.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The County Home Help Scheme provided a service in Blandford and surrounding district of well established utility and the district organiser attends the Health Clinic for messages between 9 a.m. and 9.30 a.m.

SECTION C

STATISTICAL TABLES.....1965

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALE	FEMALE
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	1	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	4	6
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	7	5
20. Other heart disease.....	5	6
21. Other circulatory disease	-	1
23. Pneumonia.....	3	1
24. Bronchitis	3	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	1	3
TOTAL	27	25

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Actions taken under Acts of Parliament.

(a) Public Health Acts.

Number of Informal Notices served..... 12

Number of Informal Notices complied with..... 9

Number of Statutory Notices served..... 5

Number of Statutory Notices complied with..... 4

(b) Housing Acts.

Number of Statutory Notices served..... Nil

Number of Statutory Notices complied with..... Nil

(c) Number of Unfit Houses closed..... 3

Number of Unfit Houses demolished..... 1

Number of families rehoused..... 2

Number of persons rehoused.....10

(d) Factories Acts and Regulations.

Number of Informal Notices served..... 1

Number of Informal Notices complied with..... 1

Number of Formal Notices served..... Nil

Number of Formal Notices complied with.....Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1957

Considerable progress has been made during the past few years in demolishing and closing unfit houses and rehousing the families.

A survey of dwelling-houses in 1960 disclosed the fact that 60 houses in the Borough were considered unfit for human habitation. Twenty-six of these have since been officially represented to the Council and in each case Demolition and Closing Orders placed upon the properties.

Closing Orders were placed on three dwellings and one demolished during the past twelve months.

Six dwelling-houses were officially represented to the Council as being unfit for human habitation and suitable for Clearance Area procedure under the Housing Acts. This recommendation was accepted by the Council.

OVERCROWDING

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at 31/12/65..... 1

Number of families therein..... 2

(b) Number of new cases.....1

(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved. 1

Number of persons involved.....6

(d) Number of renewed cases of overcrowding..... Nil

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF AREA.

Summary of Inspection and re-visits made in the course of routine work during the year 1965 by your public health inspector:-

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Houses	126
Other premises	84
Housing Inspections	37
Infectious Diseases	0
Markets	35
Factories	15

Food Inspections:-

Meat inspection	4
Cafes	28
Ice Cream Premises	15
Grocers	18
Butchers	21
Bakeries	3
Fried Fish	2
General	38

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

Regular inspections have been carried out under the above regulations and as a result of which the following improvements were made:-

Premises cleansed and re-decorated	1
Washbasin installed with H.W. supply	1
Other minor improvements	3

Informal action was taken against a Bakery firm for the depositing and storage of unwrapped bread and confectionery in a dirty and dilapidated farm shed.

Following representations the firm concerned found another more suitable building outside the town.

ICE CREAM

12 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, the results of which were as follows:-

Grade 1 - 8
Grade 2 - 4

MEAT INSPECTION

The only privately owned slaughter house closed during the year 1962

FOOD INSPECTION

The following foodstuffs were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption:-

Canned cooked meats.....	80 lbs.
Canned fruit.....	122 lbs.
Meat.....	6 lbs
Sugar confectionery.....	Nil

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

No complaints have been received regarding any noise complaints during the past twelve months.

CLEAN AIR ACT.

No action was necessary.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

Nine samples of water obtained from the Swimming Baths were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were reported as satisfactory

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WATER SUPPLY

All the population within the Borough are supplied with internal water supplies from the public mains with the exception of two dwelling-houses.

Following Informal Notices being served upon the landlords of two dwelling-houses, internal water supplies together with sinks and wastes have been installed.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

All houses with the exception of three are connected with the main sewage system. The sewage disposal works have recently been improved and can now deal with a population of over 6,000.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses within the Borough.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The dumping and burning of refuse on the outskirts of the town gives rise to frequent complaints. The negotiations now taking place with the Rural District Council for a joint refuse tip are proceeding satisfactorily and it is hoped that a properly controlled tip will be in use within the next twelve months.

PIGEONS

A number of complaints were received during the year regarding the damage caused by the large numbers of pigeons on buildings in the centre of the town.

The Pests Officer has endeavoured to reduce the numbers by traps on some buildings, but has only met with somewhat limited success.

RODENT CONTROL

Total number of visits made by Rodent Officer	416
Number of premises surveyed on notification	302
Number of premises surveyed under Act	115
Number of premises found to be infested with rats	17
Number of premises found to be infested with mice	3
Number of premises found to be infested with rats and mice	Nil

A large number of complaints were received from the public of wasps nests and ant infestations. All of these were effectively dealt with by the Pests Officer.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	50	8	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	5	2	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total..	55	10	Nil	Nil

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found	Remedied	Referred: To H.M. Inspector	Referred: By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total.....	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork
(Sections 133 & 134)

Nature of Work	Number on List	
Wearing apparel) Making etc.,) Cleaning) and) Washing	12	There were no cases of default in sending liststo the Council, no prosecutions for failure to supply lists, no instances of work in unwholesome premises, no notices served and no prosecutions.
Curtains and furniture hangings.....	2	
Total.....	14	